

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

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R 090232Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3929

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 3927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, MY

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3807

1. IN ADDITION TO NAMES CITED PARA 6 REFTEL OF SEVEN INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED

IN MINOR CABINET READJUSTMENTS ANNOUNCED BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN

ONN AT UMNO PARTY ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION JULY 2, FOUR NEW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ALSO WERE APPOINTED AND WERE SWORN IN JULY

5. THEY ARE: (1) MR. PATRICK ANAK UREN, SARAWAK NATIONAL PARTY (SNAP) MP FROM BAU LUNDU, WELFARE SERVICES MINISTRY; (2) MR. LUHAT WAN, SNAP MP

FROM BARAM, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY; (3) MR. K. PATHANABAN, MALAYSIAN INDIAN CONGRESS (MIC) MP FROM TELOK KEMANG, NEGRI SEMBILAN, LABOR AND MANPOWER MINISTRY; AND (4) ENCIK ZAKARIA BIN ABDUL RAHMAN, UMNO MP FROM BESUT, TRENGGANU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELEVEN CABINET AND SUBCABINET CHANGES, PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN SAID THAT THE OBJECTIVE

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IN EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES BY THREE WAS

TO ASSIST THE MINISTERS IN RUNNING THEIR MINISTERIES.

3. BREAKDOWN, BY PARTY, OF CURRENT ALLOCATION IN THE NATIONAL FROMT (NF) GOVERNMENT OF THE 22 CABINET PORTFOLIOS, 20 DEPUTY MINISTER POSITIONS, AND 10 PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY POSITIONS IS AS FOLLOWS: (A) MINISTERS--UMNO (12), MCA (4), PMIP (ALSO KNOWN AS PAS-2), MIC (1), SARAWAK UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY (SUPP--1), PARTY PESAKA BUMIPUTRA BERSATU (PPBB-1), UNITED SABAH NATIONALS ORGANIZATION (USNO-1); (B) DEPUTY MINISTERS--UMNO (11), MCA (3), GERAKAN (2), PMIP (1), MIC(1), SNAP (1) PPBB (1), AND (C) PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES--UMNO (2), MAC (2), PMIP (2), SNAP (2), SUPP (1), AND MIC (1).

4. BY STATE REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT, JOHORE LEADS WITH FIVE CABINET MINISTERS FOLLOWED BY KELANTAN AND SELANGOR WITH FOUR EACH, WHILE PERAK AND PAHANG EACH ARE REPRESENTED AT SUBCABINET LEVEL BY FOUR DEPUTY MINISTERS TWO CABINET MINISTERS, TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS, AND TWO PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN CURRENT LINEUP HAIL FROM SARAWAK AND ONE CABINET MINISTER FROM SABAH. IN PARTY TERMS, BY THE RATIO OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS COMPARED TO PARLIAMENTARY SEATS HELD, MIC IS BEST REPRESENTED SINCE THREE OF ITS FOUR MP'S ARE IN THE GOVERNMENT (ONE CABINET MINISTER, ONE DEPUTY, ONE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY).

5. COMMENTS: THESE CHANGES REFLECT BASICALLY A TINKERING WITH CABINET AND SUBCABINET ALIGNMENT TO FILL VACANCY IN AGRICULTURE MINISTRY EXISTING SINCE GHAFAR BABA WAS OMMITTED FROM CABINET LINEUP ANNOUNCED MARCH 5, TO MAINTAIN INDIAN REPRESENTATION FOLLOWING DEATH OF MIC MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO SENATOR ATHI NAHAPPAN, AND TO IMPLEMENT DECISION TO INCLUDE SNAP IN THE NF. ADDITION OF THREE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY POSITIONS FACILITIES ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT SLOTS AMONG NF COMPONENT PARTIES AND PROVIDES ADDITIONAL POOL OF GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.
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